

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS SOCIETY OF TANZANIA (AGREST)



12TH SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CALL FOR PAPERS

The **12th AGREST** conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held from **Wednesday 2nd to Friday 4th December 2020** at St Gaspar Conference Centre in **Dodoma**. The theme of the conference is **UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF FOOD SYSTEMS TO ENHANCE INTRA-AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL TRADE**.

The outbreaks of the COVID – 19 pandemic and the responses thereafter have created a deep structural problem in the way our food system works. The shrinkage of the global and specifically local food supply in many countries has resulted to a “food emergency” (UN 2020). We observe ‘food emergency’ through, first the disparity between rural and urban food prices due to the break of connection between the food supply in the rural and the food demand in the urban areas. Second, is smallholders’ restricted access to inputs, which has disrupted preparations for subsequent production season, and third, limited ability cope with severe disruptions such as the COVID – 19 pandemic among businesses and organizations involved in growing, processing and distribution of food to

Responding to the need of addressing the food emergency crisis resulting from national policy responses to severe disruptions, the UN has called for the Food System Summit in 2021. The summit aims at maximizing the benefits of food systems approach across the entire 2030 Agenda, meeting challenges of climate change, and making food systems inclusive towards sustainable peace. Although the timeliness and importance of the summit is agreed by many scholars and policy makers, there are still debates on the role of transnational corporations (TNCs) in agribusiness and family farmers in shaping the future of food system. On the one hand, the TNCs profiting from industrial agriculture, fishing, and livestock keeping are held responsible for the faltering food systems and on the other hand family smallholder producers are seen as victims.

Based on this background, the 12th AGREST Scientific Conference anchors this year’s theme as a preparatory stage to the ‘Food System Summit 2021’ as we advance dialogue and forge improved and accelerated approaches to transform food systems. The conference would like to answer the following key questions:

1. How should food systems be transformed to meet the rural and urban demands while ensuring sustainability?
2. What initiatives have been and or are being taken to ensure that food systems transformations contribute to the attainment of SDGs?
3. What kind of policy frameworks are needed to foster sustainable food systems?
4. How can we better nature domestic and intra-African Trade for improved resilience?

The 2020 AGREST conference is intending to receive a wide range of contributions addressing the complex issues of Food systems, Agriculture production, Agri-food processing, Agriculture and Nutrition, Youth unemployment, Regional and intra-African Agricultural Trade, Trade policies and community development in Africa under the auspices of resilient food systems. We therefore welcome all kinds of contributions: empirical, theoretical, conceptual, and general review papers from practitioners and researchers. The following are sub themes of the conference: -

- The changing role of agriculture with economic structural change
- Improving competitiveness - facilitating export oriented growth in Africa
- Enhancing agricultural innovation, food systems resilience and nutrition security in Africa
- Prioritizing food value chains for ASDP II
- Influence of regional trade agreements and intra-African trade on food systems
- The state of intra-African trade past COVID – 19 looking beyond
- Cross cutting issues – ICT, gender, nutrition and the like as related to building resilient food systems

Important dates are as follows: Submission of abstract – 13th October 2020, Notification of acceptance – 17th October 2020, Submission of full papers – 17th November 2020, Deadline for payment of conference fee – 22nd November 2020

Good quality papers will be published in the AGREST proceeding. All submissions should be done online through the following emails: ndytabula@sua.ac.tz and msuyae@sua.ac.tz. For clarification, you can use the same emails or phone number +255 754 284 455 or +255 655 254 417.

VIRTUAL PRESENTATION WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER PAYMENT OF THE CONFERENCE FEE

CONFERENCE FEE:

Researcher: **TSH 150,000**

Student: **TSH 100,000**

Bank Details:

Bank Name: **CRDB Bank**

Account Number: **01J2075790900**

YOU ARE ALL WELCOME